

Planning Department

Mission. The mission of the Planning Department is to provide timely, accurate and complete information along with seasoned advice on orderly, efficient and attractive development and redevelopment of land in Wichita and Sedgwick County. The Department also addresses future needs for transportation and community facilities. The Department is responsive to elected and appointed officials, prospective land developers and their agents, other governmental departments and agencies, and the general public.

Overview. The Planning Department provides planning services for the City of Wichita and Sedgwick County and serves as a concentrated data information receptacle for planning and development-related data. The Department makes recommendations on planning and zoning cases to the Metropolitan Area Planning Commission and the City Council, conducts workshops to facilitate citizen involvement in the planning process, and publishes periodic reports on such topics as population growth and development trends.

Planning is the City and County's conduit for Federal and State transportation planning grants. In addition, the department is responsible for writing and updating the Comprehensive Plan, a document required of regional planning organizations.

The Planning Department is involved in the facilitation of annexation activity, providing coordination and staff support for service plans of areas to be annexed. In conjunction with private consultants, the department works with other departments and conducts public hearings in areas targeted for annexation. These hearings allow citizens to ask questions and voice concerns relative to changes that can be expected in their neighborhoods following annexation. Key staff from designated departments is present for response to questions and comments.

The Department consists of four Divisions: Administration; Current Plans, Land Use Planning, and Transportation Planning. The Administration Division is responsible for leadership, management, and financial planning and reporting. This Division responds to directives from the City Manager and the County Manager as guided by their respective governing bodies.

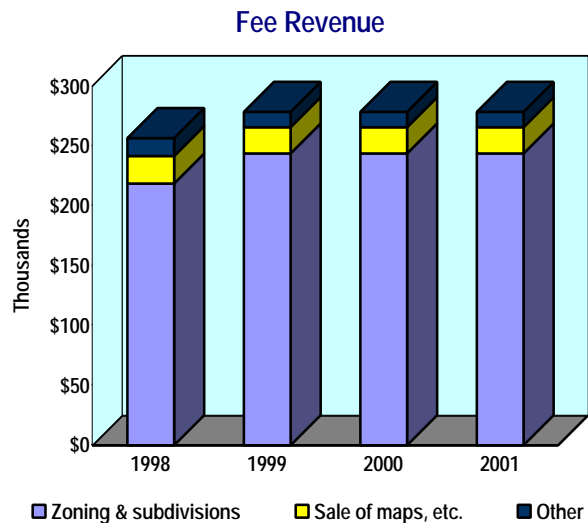
The Current Plans Division is charged with evaluating planning and zoning cases and developing staff recommendations for presentation to the Metropolitan Area Planning Commission. This Division also collects, compiles, and provides pertinent development data to real estate developers.

The Land Use Division makes long-range projections of expected land use patterns and development based on population figures and other data. This Division is also responsible for updating aerial flyover photographs of Wichita and Sedgwick County every three years.

Transportation Planning develops transportation models based on traffic patterns and expected population growth. The Division is the channel through which Federal and State transportation grants such as (Transportation Efficiency Act) TEA-21 are coordinated. This Division also develops the City and County's Long-Range Transportation Plan, a 30-year plan for addressing future transportation needs in the area.

The Planning Department is currently in the process of converting City/County zoning maps to a computerized format, which should make the maps more easily accessible in the future. Another area of emphasis is the continued planning and development of bike paths in the Wichita area. Federal funds pay for this activity.

Finance and Operations. The Planning Department is a City-County operation, funded equally by the City of Wichita and Sedgwick County. The department generates approximately \$250,000 annually from user fees on items such as subdivision plats, zoning and re-zoning fees, and the like. That portion of the budget offsets the amount the City and County share for operations.



The Department recently undertook an upgrade of its existing personal computer inventory. This upgrade, in connection with the City's new automated development tracking system, is expected to significantly streamline the development and re-development review process.

In 1998, for development of the Comprehensive Plan, the Planning Department facilitated eighteen public meetings with over 300 participants from the community. The Department also organized a mini-conference last spring with guest speakers on growth management. A community vision was developed with a citizen survey returned by 2100 residents on planning and development issues. Efforts culminated in two alternative visions for the future and calculated the growth-related costs for each.

Selected Performance Measures			
Avg staff hours required per unit of service	1998	1999	2000
Avg Staff hours/zoning	19.38	17.83	17.83
Avg Staff hours/Plats	14.19	14.00	14.00
Avg Staff hours/annexations	17.58	16.50	16.50

City-County Planning Department Budget Summary					
	1998 Actual	1999 Adopted	1999 Revised	2000 Adopted	2001 Approved
Personal Services	1,048,159	1,153,120	1,133,240	1,170,060	1,216,150
Contractual Services	152,179	137,440	143,970	199,230	161,230
Commodities	20,933	10,030	10,630	10,900	10,900
Capital Outlay	22,822	0	2,000	0	0
Total Planning Expenditures	1,244,093	1,300,590	1,289,840	1,380,190	1,388,280
Less: Sedgwick County	(494,013)	(516,170)	(505,070)	(550,250)	(554,290)
Other revenue	(256,067)	(268,260)	(279,700)	(279,700)	(279,700)
Total General Fund Expenditures	494,013	516,160	505,070	550,240	554,290
Position Summary					
Total full-time	22	22	22	22	22
Total part-time	2	2	2	2	2
Total FTE	22.4	22.4	22.4	22.4	22.4